

REMARKS

This is an amendment and response to the Office Action mailed June 9, 2004. Claims 1-11 were previously pending. Applicant has herein amended Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 11. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Thus, after entry of the present amendment, Claims 1-11 will be pending.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner during a brief telephone interview on July 14, 2004 with the undersigned to discuss the present application, the outstanding Office Action, and the cited prior art. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.33, and MPEP § 713.04, Applicant makes the following statement regarding the interview:

1. No exhibits were shown or discussed.
2. The claims discussed generally were Claims 1-11. No specific claims were discussed.
3. No prior art was discussed.
4. No amendments were proposed.
5. The thrust of the principal argument presented to the Examiner was that the Affidavits of Thomas C. Amon and Ronny Haraldsvik, both of which were filed in this matter on June 16, 2003, were apparently not considered.
6. No other pertinent matters were discussed.
7. The results of the interview are that the Examiner agreed Applicant's response to the Office action did not need to include copies of the affidavits or proof of their submission.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7, and 8 were objected to for not including "and" to separate elements or steps. Applicant has amended Claims 1-4, 7, and 8 per the Examiner's request. Applicant requests the objection now be withdrawn.

Applicant also has amended Claims 4, 6, and 11, to correct obvious typographical errors.

In the Office Action, claims 1-11 were also rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,875,296 ("Shi"). Per the phone interview referenced above, Applicant submits that the affidavits on file are sufficient to overcome this rejection, and requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the application be allowed. If the examiner has any questions, please call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: July 15, 2004

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